

BOLIDE

co-ordinator

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Dear Colleague,

Many researchers in different parts of the world are currently interesting themselves in anomalous light phenomena, and their relevance to - inter alia - geophysical and atmospheric phenomena on the one hand, UFOs and 'psychic' experiences on the other. Reports suggest that even on the level of physical reality, some such lights are capable of behaviour unmatched elsewhere in nature ; further, that some give the impression of intelligent control ; and further still, that in some cases interaction with the witness on a mental level may occur. Whether or not these reports are trustworthy, the fact that they are made at all, and in such numbers, merits our study.

Some of those investigating these phenomena are working in universities and other institutions ; others are engaged in anomaly research on a more or less amateur basis, ranging from editors of Fortean journals to armchair theorists who make up for their lack of formal qualifications by a wide and cross-disciplinary knowledge of a literature which comprises medieval chronicles and The Gentleman's Magazine in addition to Perceptual & Motor skills and the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research.

Probably most of these people are aware of some of the others' activities, and a certain amount of information-sharing already takes place. However, it is evident that we could all benefit from a wider exchange of information so that - for instance - spook light researchers in the United States can keep up to date with Norway's Project Hessdalen, and Italian ufologists investigating Adriatic fishermen's sightings can assess the relevance, if any, of earthlight research in Wales or tectonic stress theories from Canada. And so forth...

Hence - BOLIDE !

(continues)

Bolide is neither a society nor a journal : it is simply a means of exchanging information. Correspondents will send the co-ordinator anything you find interesting - reports on your own work, newspaper clippings, articles in esoteric academic journals, reports from the past, or simply thoughts that came to you in the shower this morning. And every so often a packet of photocopies of these will be sent to you in return. Each item will be on A4 paper, decently photocopied so far as the original will allow, and coded with a view to eventual indexing and reference. A list of the correspondents, with their addresses, will be circulated, so that direct communication may occur, and also so that the network can acquire whatever further degree of cohesion its members wish.

If you have any suggestions for improving these arrangements, particularly ones that do not add appreciably to the burden of labour, I shall be glad to have them.

Obviously I shall want to be reimbursed for the material costs of photocopying and mailing. I propose an initial subscription of £10/\$15/120F, and we'll see how far that takes us.

This initial letter is going out to about 50 people I can name off the top of my head, in Britain, France, Norway, Australia, the United States, Spain, Canada and Sweden ; no doubt I shall think of more, and I shall be glad to have further nominations, for though large numbers per se are unimportant, the wider the network the more truly representative it will be. If the thing takes off, of course, we can look forward to international seminars and multi-disciplinary workshops ; for the moment, we'll do well to keep it simple.

Ideally, you will each now reply -

- 1 - saying 'Yes !'
- 2 - enclosing your cheque for £10/\$15/120F or the equivalent (I am prepared to barter or trade !)
- 3 - with some helpful suggestions and further names
- 4 - at least one item - a report, a news-clipping or whatever - to start the ball rolling.

To conclude, this is not a *proposal*, it is an announcement. In a sense, BOLIDE already exists, in the form of the material I already exchange with colleagues round the world. All that is happening now is that this informal arrangement is being put on a more regular and wide-ranging basis.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hilary', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.